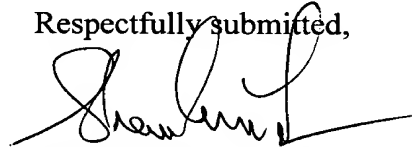


Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections to the claims be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. In the event that there are unresolved issues in view of the claim amendments and/or remarks, consistent with the provisions of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 2173.02, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to suggest claim language to Applicants to improve the clarity or precision of the language used to amend the claims.

In any event, any questions that the Examiner may have should be directed to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



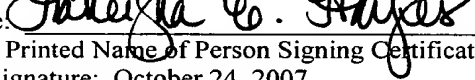
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Date of Signature: October 24, 2007